

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07537 260655Z

10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 SIG-01 A-01 /015 W
----- 014639
R 260435Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8282

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FOR: CONNOLLY NEA/EX, RALSTON A/FBO FROM PROVENCHER

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ABLD, IR
SUBJ: OFFICE SPACE FOR CONSULAR SECTION.

1. FROM MAY 26 TO JULY 15 FIVE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS WERE IN IRAN INSPECTING THIS POST. IT WAS CONSENSUS OF OPINION OF ALL FIVE INSPECTORS THAT THE GREATEST INADEQUACY AT THIS MISSION IS THE POOR QUALITY OFFICE BUILDING AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE CONSULAR SECTION. TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE AT OUR STUDENT VISA SECTION, WE HAVE FROM 50 TO 100 APPLICANTS WHO SLEEP ON THE SIDEWALK BEGINNING EACH MORNING AT 3:30 WAITING FOR THE OFFICE TO OPEN AT 7:30. AT OUR CONSULAR SECTION WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN 5 MINUTES WALK FROM THE EMBASSY COMPOUND A STREAM OF VISA APPLICANTS ANYWHERE FROM 50 TO 200 PEOPLE LINE UP EVERY MORNING BEFORE 0730 ALONG THE SIDEWALK COVERING ALMOST TWO BLOCKS WAITING FOR THE CONSULATE DOOR TO OPEN. BOTH OF THESE AREAS ARE LOCATED AT A VERY HEAVILY POPULATED AND ON MAIN STREET AREAS. WITH THESE VERY HOT AND SUNNY DAYS WITH TEMPERATURE RANGING FROM 104-TO 107 FAHRENHEIT THERE IS MUCH SUFFERING AS THESE APPLICANTS HAVE TO WAIT IN LINE FROM TWO TO FOUR HOURS BEFORE THEY GET TO THE SHADE OF THE BUILDING.

2. IT WAS THE INSPECTORS URGENT RECOMMENDATION THAT WE DO SOMETHING NOW TO RELOCATE OUR CONSULAR SERVICES OPERATION TO ANOTHER LOCATION WHERE IMPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS COULD BE PROVIDED WHILE WAITING TO OBTAIN VISAS. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY NOW TO RECOMMEND
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THE TYPE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO RELOCATE THE CONSULAR SECTION.

3. WE DISCUSSED WITH THE INSPCETORS FBO CONSTRUCTION PLANS BUT THE INSPECTORS INSISTED ACTION BE TAKEN NOW TO CHANGE AND IMPROVE ON THE CONSULAR SETUP BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR SEARCH WE WOULD APPRECIATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEA/EX AND A/FBO VISIT TEHRAN TO DISCUSS THIS URGENT PROBLEM WITH US. IT IS HOPED YOU WILL GIVE THIS MATTER SERIOUS COSIDERATION AS THIS PROBLEM IS ONE THAT REQUIRES THE FULL SUPPORT OF NEA/EX AND A/FBO. WE REQUEST THAT WHOEVER VISITS TEHRAN HAVE AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN DETAIL AND HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS.
HELMS

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NNN

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